

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT - PARA 1 LINE 5)

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SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER PRESENTS NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT

REF: COPENHAGEN 5596

1. PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN TODAY PRESENTED HIS NEW GOVERNMENT TO QUEEN INGRID (ACTING IN ABSENCE OF QUEEN MARGRETHE WHO HAS BEEN VISITING GREELAND). THE HISTORIC COALITION CABINET IS COMPOSED OF 14 SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND 7 LIBERALS AND IS SUPPORTED BY 65 SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND 21 LIBERAL FOLKETING MEMBERS. WITH TWO FURTHER SUPPORTERS FROM THE FAEROE ISLAND, THE GOVERNMENT MAY COUNT LN 88 VOTES IN THE 179 MEMBER FOLKETING. ALTHOUGH NOT A MAJORITY, IT IS EXTREMELY UNLIKELY THAT A MAJORITY COULD BE MUSTERED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, THUS PERMITTING PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION AGREED UPON BY THE COALITION PARTNERS.

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2. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SCHEDULED A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR 3:30 PM THIS AFTERNOON WHEN IT IS HOPED THE DETAILS OF THE COALITION PROGRAM WILL BE ANNOUNCED. LATER IN THE AFTERNOON CHANGEOVER IN THE MINISTRIES IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AT 1 PM TOMORROW, AUGUST 31, THE FOLKETING WILL CONVENE IN EXTRAORDINARY

SESSION TO CONSIDER THE PROGRAM AGREED UPON BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATES AND THE LIBERALS.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER IS LIBERAL PARTY LEADER HENNING CHRISTOPHERSEN, 38 YEARS OLD AND A MEMBER OF THE DANISH PARLIAMENT SINCE 1971. AFTER POUL HARTLING'S APPOINTMENT A YEAR AGO AS UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, CHRISTOPHERSEN WAS NAMED ACTING PARTY CHAIRMAN PENDING OFFICIAL SELECTION BY A PARTY CONVENTION SCHEDULED FOR LATE SEPTEMBER. IN THE COURSE OF THE SUMMER'S POLITICAL MANEUVERING IT BECAME CLEAR THAT CHRISTOPHERSEN HAD NO RIVALS FOR PARTY LEADERSHIP. HE TOOK A DEGREE IN NATIONAL ECONOMY AT COPENHAGEN UNIVERSITY IN 1965 AND HAS WORKED AS AN ECONOMIC JOURNALIST. SINCE HIS LATE TEENS HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN LIBERAL PARTY YOUTH GROUPS AND WAS A LEADING MEMBER OF THE LIBERAL YOUTH GROUP FROM 1959 TO 1966. CHRISTOPHERSEN IS NOT EXPECTED TO DO AS MUCH TRAVELING IN HIS NEW POST AS HIS PREDECESSOR, K.B. ANDERSEN, GIVEN HIS LEADING ROLE IN THE COALITION. MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO LISE OSTERGAARD WILL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AS DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, WITH SAME TITLE.

4. MINISTER OF FINANCE REMAINS SOCIAL DEMOCRAT KNUD HEINESSEN.
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5. NEW ECONOMIC, TAX AND EXCISE TAXES MINISTER IS LIBERAL PARTY STALWART AND FORMER FINANCE MINISTER FROM 1973 TO 1975 IN THE HARTLING GOVERNMENT ANDERS ANDERSEN. A FARMER FROM JUTLAND, HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE FOLKETING SINCE 1953. HE IS 65 YEARS OLD AND TAKES OVER THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOTH PER HAEKKERUP AND JENS KAMPMANN.

6. MINISTER OF TRADE WILL BE LIBERAL ARNE CHRISTIANSEN, A MEMBER OF THE FOLKETING SINCE 1968. CHRISTIANSEN, 52 YEARS OLD, WAS TRAINED AS A JOURNALIST AND IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL'S INFORMATION DIVISION. HE HAS BEEN CHAIRMAN OF THE FOLKETING MARKET COMMITTEE, DEALING WITH EC RELATIONS, AND HAS BEEN CHAIRMAN OF THE FOLKETING DEFENSE COMMITTEE. A STRONG SUPPORTER OF NATO AND LONGER TERM DANISH DEFENSE COMMITMENTS, CHRISTIANSEN HAS LONG BEEN A CLOSE CONTACT OF THE EMBASSY. HE REPLACES IVAR NORGAARD.

7. MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR REPLACING EGON JENSE

IS KNUD ENNGAARD, WHO WAS DEFEATED IN 1977 FOR REELECTION TO THE FOKETING, OF WHICH HE HAD BEEN A MEMBER SINCE 1964. HE IS A FORMER LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARLIAMENTARY GROUP. ENNGAARD IS 49 YEARS OLD AND IS TRAINED AS AN EXONOMIST AND CIVIL ENGINEER.

8. MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS REMAINS NIELS MATTHIASSEN WHO GIVES UP RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS. NEW MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT IS IVAR NORGAARD, FORMERLY MINISTER OF TRADE. BOTH ARE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.

9. MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS IS ERLING JENSEN, MINISTER OF JUSTICE IN THE LAST GOVERNMENT.

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10. NEW MINISTER OF JUSTICE IS LIBERAL NATHALIE LIND. SHE IS 60 YEARS OF AGE AND HAS BEEN MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS IN VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS SINCE 1968. SHE WAS FIRST ELECTED TO THE FOLKETING IN 1964.

11. MINISTER OF EDUCATION REMAINS RITT BJERREGAARD.

12. MINISTER OF FISHERIES REMAINS SVEND JACOBSEN.

13. NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IS LIBERAL NIELS ANKER KOFOED WHO WAS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES IN THE HARTLING GOVERNMENT. THE LAST FEW YEARS HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. HE REPLACES POUL DALSGER, WHO HAS BEEN ILL RECENTLY.

14. MINISTER FOR GREELAND REMAINS JORGEN PEDER HANSEN. HIS OTHER PORTFOLIO, ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS, GOES TO EGON JENSEN, FORMERLY MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

15. NEW MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS IS LIBERAL PARLIAMENTARY GROUP LEADER IVAR HANSEN. A 39-YEAR OLD FARMER FROM JUTLAND, HE WAS THOUGHT AT FIRST TO BE A COMETITOR TO HENNING CHRISTOPHERSEN FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE LIBERAL PARTY. HE REPLACES KJELD OLESEN.

16 MINISTER OF DEFENSE POUL SOGAARD AND MINISTER OF LABOR SVEND AUKEN RETAIN THEIR PORTFOLIOS.

17 ERLING OLSEN, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FOLKETING POLITICAL SPOKESMAN REPLACES OVE HOVE AS HOUSING MINISTER.

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18. FORMER MINISTER OF ECONOMICS AND A GRAND OLD
MAN IN THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, PER HAEKERRUP
BECOMES MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO.

19. PRELIMINARY COMMENT: THE NEW
CABINET IS COMPOSED OF EXPERIENCED PARLIAMENTARY
AND ADMINISTRATIVE VETERANS ALL OF WHO, ON THE
WHOLE, ARE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE U.S.
FURTHER ANALYSIS FOLLOWS.
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